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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS SERVICE
NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION—THE AMERICAN LEGION
HEADQUARTERS
William M. Detweiler, Chairman
Frederick Woodress, Director
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
(317) 635-8411
For God and Country

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 12-4-81

National Commander Jack W. Flynt, participating in wreath-laying ceremonies Dec. 7, 1981, at the USS Arizona memorial in Honolulu, said "Never again should we let our love of peace blind us to the threat of war. Never again should we mistake the ambitions of our adversaries for intentions of honor. Never again should we be slow to recognize that a threat to free men anywhere is a threat to ourselves." Commander Flynt's remarks came on the 40th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. (Page 1).

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The Department of Indiana once again leads the competition among American Legion state organizations in the continuing drive to raise money for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. As of Dec. 3, Indiana had contributed more than $15,000 to the fund. (Page 4).

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John M. (Jack) Carey, Past National Commander of The American Legion (1978-1979) has been re-elected mayor of Grand Blanc, Mich. PNC Carey received 67 percent of the votes cast in the election. (Page 2).

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An American Legion spokesman has advised the Senate Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Labor and Human Resources that the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment is a matter of urgency. Jim Bourie, National Economics Division Director, testified Nov. 17 on the nomination of William Plowden to fill the post. (Page 1).

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FOR USE 12-4-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- "Never again," should be the message of the silent voices whispering to us from the USS Arizona and the National Cemetery of the Pacific, said American Legion National Commander Jack W. Flynt as he participated in wreath laying ceremonies at both national shrines on Dec. 7, the 40th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

"Never again," he said, "should we let our love of peace blind us to the threat of war. Never again should we mistake the ambitions of our adversaries for intentions of honor. Never again should we be slow to recognize that a threat to free men anywhere is a threat to ourselves."

Enroute back to the United States mainland after a visit of nearly three weeks with American Legionnaires and military and diplomatic officials in the farther reaches of the Pacific, Flynt took part in a wreath laying ceremony at the Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor where the hull of the sunken battleship is the tomb of most of the crew who were aboard ship on that fateful morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

Later the same day he participated in similar ceremonies at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, the Punchbowl, which serves as the final resting place or memorial for more than 30,000 United States servicemen of World War II, the Korean War, and the war in Vietnam.

-alns-

FOR USE 12-4-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- Jim Bourie, national economics director of The American Legion, told the Senate Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Labor and Human Resources Nov. 17 of the urgency of appointing an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment.

Testifying on the nomination of William Plowden to fill the post, Bourie reminded the Senators that the Legion does not endorse candidates for government positions. Instead, he expressed pleasure that the Labor Department has finally moved to fill the post, whose creation was a major Legion goal, more than a year after it was established by law.

Bourie said the Labor Department's Veterans Employment Service needs "a strong and dedicated leader, especially in these times of budget and personnel cuts." He said only the office of Assistant Secretary could fully address the serious problems of veterans unemployment.

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FOR USE 12-4-81

GRAND BLANC, Mich. (ALNS) -- The citizens of the city of Grand Blanc, Mich. have re-elected John M. (Jack) Carey mayor. He received 67 percent of the votes cast.

This will be the fifth term as mayor for Jack. He relinquished the position in 1978 to become National Commander of The American Legion during the 1978-79 Legion year.

Carey is a life member of Grand Blanc American Legion Post #413, having served as Post Adjutant for 31 years. He was Michigan Department Commander during 1958-59.

-alns-

FOR USE 12-4-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- National Headquarters has learned of the death Nov. 2, 1981, of J. Frank Graff, 92, a founder of The American Legion. He died in Armstrong County Memorial Hospital at Kittanning, Pa.

An army major during World War I who later served in the 1916 Mexican Border Campaign, Mr. Graff was a member of the original Paris Caucus at which the Legion was founded in 1919. At the time of his death, he was senior county judge in Armstrong County, Pa., having served 57 years, 10 months and two days on the bench. He is believed to have served the longest continuous tenure of any judge in the nation.

Survivors include his wife, Sue McConnell Graff; a son, daughter and one brother. Services were at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kittanning.

-alns-

FOR USE 12-4-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- National Headquarters has been informed of the death of H. Armand deMasi, former national historian of The American Legion and long-time Alternate National Executive Committeeman and NECman from the Department of Italy.

He passed away at the age of 91, and had made his home in Jackson Heights, N.Y. He is survived by the widow, Margherita, 37-09 75th St., Jackson Heights, N.Y.

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FOR USE 12-4-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- Nobody challenged ALNS' speculation on Oct. 16 that National Historian Bernard Chisholm, of Duluth, Minn., might be the only current National Officer of The American Legion married to a drill sergeant.

This past week he just may have recorded another first, when his wife, Mary Ann, was named ninth District Commander of the Great Lakes States Command of the Royal Canadian Legion. Her eligibility for the Royal Canadian Legion, of course, was gained through the same service in which she served as a drill sergeant in the Army Territorial Service, British Forces, during World War II.

Chisholm is now married to a drill sergeant and a district commander of the Royal Canadian Legion.

-alns-

FOR USE 12/4/81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- Competition among American Legion departments for top contributor to the Legion's drive to raise money for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund continues, with the Department of Indiana once again holding the lead.

Tallying of the contribution totals is underway, although no total figures are available. However, as of Dec. 3, 1981, the top ten contributing departments, and their amounts on hand at National Headquarters, are:

1.) Indiana	$15,531.90	6.) Minnesota	$7,395.00
2.) Illinois	10,993.60	7.) Virginia	6,890.00
3.) California	9,970.05	8.) New York	5,996.00
4.) Ohio	8,750.00	9.) Mississippi	5,532.00
5.) Michigan	7,652.38	10.) Wisconsin	5,281.00

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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 12-11-81

The National Capital Planning Commission of Washington, D.C., has approved the safety, accessibility to the handicapped and the drainage provisions of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, planned for a two-acre site on the mall in Washington. American Legion Legislative Director E. Philip Riggin appeared before the commission to describe Legion support of the monument. (Page 5)

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Grant applications from tax-exempt, non profit institutions are now being accepted by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation for research and projects which add to man's knowledge of children and youth through the support of research in a number of fields, or which make existing knowledge of children and youth more effective through wider distribution. (Page 1)

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Two staff members of the American Legion National Legislative Division have been promoted. Paul S. Egan was named Deputy Director; Joseph E. Miller was promoted to Assistant Director. Both are Vietnam era veterans. (Pages 2 & 4)

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* NOTE TO EDITORS: There will be no ALNS during the holiday weeks of Christmas and New Years Day. *
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Please watch your first ALNS mailing of the New Year. The mailing will contain our annual survey card to determine whether or not you wish to be kept on the News Service mailing list. The card must be returned to our offices not later than the last Friday in February. Names of subscribers who have not returned the survey card by that date will be removed from the list until such time as the Public Relations office is notified to re-instate the subscriber. Please return your survey card promptly to avoid any interruption of service.

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FOR USE 12-11-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is now accepting grant applications from non-profit tax-exempt institutions and organizations. Deadline for the applications is March 31, 1982.

In announcing the grants application deadline, Paul R. Frinsthal, Foundation Executive Secretary, said the purpose of requested grants must be in line with the stated goals of the Foundation: First, to add to man's knowledge of children and youth through the support of research in a number of fields and, second, to make existing knowledge of children and youth more effective through wider distribution.

The one-year grants, Frinsthal said, "must have the potential of helping children nationally, or at least over a large geographic area."

He said grants will not be made to cover normal operating expenses, for building programs or to match government funds.

Applications must include the dollar amount, time table, statement of need, a brief summary of related research, a contemplated plan of approach, facilities description, the duration of the project and a brief plan for the distribution of the information gained under the grant.

Grant application forms and regulations concerning this year's grant procedures are available from Frinsthal at American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206. Applicants will be notified of the status of their request by May 15, 1982.

Founded in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was founded as the result of a feeling by members of The American Legion that the organization's Children & Youth program was too narrow. Since 1925, assistance had been provided to individual youngsters on a case-by-case basis. The result was the Foundation, whose primary source of funding has been contributions from individual Legionnaires and members of The American Legion Auxiliary. Funds from the first bequest to the foundation, received from a man who died in prison, were dedicated to defraying the expenses of police officers attending the Delinquency Control Institute of the University of Southern California.

"The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is deeply indebted to the thousands of volunteers who make annual contributions," Frinsthal said. He expressed special appreciation to "the ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary, who have been the major sponsors of the Foundation since its incorporation in 1954."

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FOR USE 12-11-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- President Reagan has designated January 1982 National Volunteer Blood Donor Month.

In his message designating the special month, the President said:

"I commend those Americans who have donated blood that others might live and encourage every American to join in this expression of concern by offering the gift of blood.

"There is no alternative source for most blood products...I urge every healthy person to participate in their local volunteer blood program and to experience the rich satisfaction of giving selflessly for the well-being of others."

The American Legion is represented on the board of directors of the American Blood Commission by Jim Hubbard, deputy director of the National Security Foreign Relations Division. The Legion encourages posts to set up blood donor programs and each year awards citations from the National Commander to the departments with the strongest post and membership participation. The American Legion Department of Rhode Island won both awards in 1981 with participation by every post in the state and donations from 24 percent of their 10,000 members.

According to the American Blood Commission, volunteer blood donors give about 11 million pints of blood per year nationwide. But according to Hubbard, only about four percent of the U.S. population medically eligible to give blood -- 40 percent of the total population -- actually does so.

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FOR USE 12-11-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- Paul S. Egan, 32, assistant director of The American Legion National Legislative Division, has been promoted to deputy director.

Egan joined The American Legion headquarters staff as a claims representative in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division in August 1979 and joined the Legislative Division four months later.

A native of Old Saybrook, Conn., Egan enlisted in the Army in 1968. He was trained as a combat medic, medical corpsman and neuropsychiatric technician and served out his enlistment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he was commended for his work as ward master of a psychiatric ward.

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Paul S. Egan promoted to deputy director FOR USE 12-11-81

After graduating from Montgomery Community College, Takoma Park, Md., with an associate degree in general education, Egan transferred to Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass., where he worked in psychiatry while attending school. He graduated from Harvard in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in government.

The National Legislative Division analyzes the resolutions of the national conventions and National Executive Committee meetings of the nation's largest veterans organization and prepares drafts of bills for which it seeks Congressional sponsors. It also informs Congress of The American Legion's support or opposition concerning pending legislation and prepares material and schedules witnesses for committee meetings of the U.S. House and Senate.

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FOR USE 12-11-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- Harold T. Kelly, 46, a retired Navy intelligence officer of the Vietnam era, has joined the national staff of The American Legion as a claims representative. He will be stationed initially at the Veteran's Administration's Washington Regional Office.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Kelly joined the Navy in 1958 and was retired with a medical disability in 1977 with the rank of commander. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from Providence College in 1968 and held a number of overseas assignments while in the service. Before joining the Legion's National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, he worked for a small Virginia company as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

In the VA & R post, which corresponds to Department Service Officer in most states, Kelly will help veterans file claims for VA benefits. VA's Washington Regional Office serves veterans from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and those living overseas.

Kelly is a charter member of Burke Post 98, American Legion Department of Virginia, and has served as finance officer for the two years since the post was founded. He and his wife, who teaches in the Fairfax County school system, live in Burke with their son, 13, and daughter, 9.

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FOR USE 12-11-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- Joseph E. Miller, a 10-year Army veteran wounded in Vietnam, has been appointed assistant director of The American Legion's National Legislative Division in Washington.

Miller, has a master's degree in film production and theory and worked for the past three years with the motion picture department at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research here.

A member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans, Miller is applying for membership in Chula Vista Post 434 of The American Legion Department of California in the community where he grew up. He is active in veterans affairs and served as advertising and publicity chairman for the Washington Area Vet-a-Thon '81, a job outreach program carried out here on Veterans Day with Legion national officers as guest experts.

Miller, the son of a retired 30-year Navy officer, was born in Seattle, Wash. He joined the Army in 1962 and was retired for medical reasons in 1972. Miller was wounded in 1970 while serving with a reconnaissance team of the 101st Airborne in Vietnam, and received a Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, a Combat Infantryman's Badge and numerous other decorations.

He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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FOR USE 12-11-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- James G. Dunton, "Mr. Armed Forces Chess Championship Tournament" to thousands of uniformed services chess players for more than 20 years, has retired.

Washington representative of the American Chess Federation, Dunton announced his retirement after completing the most recent competition, the 22nd he has arranged. Robert Hermann, Assistant Director of Public Relations for The American Legion, will assume Dunton's responsibilities for the 1982 tournament scheduled for September 7-15, 1982.

Dunton is an Army veteran of World War I and World War II, and is a member of the District of Columbia American Legion Post 12.

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FOR USE 12-11-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- The National Capital Planning Commission, in a hearing Dec. 3, has approved the safety, accessibility to the handicapped and drainage provisions of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, planned for a two-acre site on the Mall in Washington.

E. Philip Riggin, director of The American Legion's National Legislative Division, told the planning commission the Legion supports the memorial, the design of which has been attacked by some veterans who challenge its artistic merit. The design was chosen in May 1981 from among more than 1,400 entries in the largest architectural design competition ever held in this country. However, its foes claim only Vietnam veterans are fit to select the winner. The winning design was chosen by a jury of eight prominent architects, landscape designers and sculptors -- which included four veterans -- and was approved by the directors of the organizing group, who are all Vietnam veterans.

The American Legion, which has supported the Vietnam Veterans Memorial since before the design was selected, is currently involved in a special fund-raising campaign to meet its pledge of $1 million toward the estimated $7 million construction cost. The memorial will be built entirely from privately donated funds.

Also supporting the memorial at the planning commission hearing were representatives of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Gold Star Mothers and the Reserve Officers Association.

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FOR USE 12-11-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- A special, made-for-television movie, "The Kid from Nowhere," scheduled for broadcast Jan. 4, 1982, over the NBC Television Network, will showcase the efforts of Special Olympics on behalf of mentally retarded Americans.

The two-hour movie is "the story of a young mother raising a mentally retarded child and (the) coach who introduces them to Special Olympics and a new way of life," according to advance publicity provided by Special Olympics, Inc. It stars Beau Bridges, Susan St. James, Loretta Swit and Randy Wittman, a real-life Special Olympian.

The American Legion, through its National Americanism and Children & Youth Commission, sponsors and supports Special Olympics around the country.

"The Kid from Nowhere" is part of an innovative fund raising project scheduled to begin Dec. 28 and conclude at the end of March. Viewers interested in the program should check local listings for time and channel of broadcast.

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For God and Country

DEAR EDITORS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS:

We would be remiss if we didn't report the news in our own division. Our very capable Deputy Director Rodney Anderson goes on leave December 18 for a January 1, 1982, retirement after 20 very productive years with The American Legion. Rod will be greatly missed.

I will be leaving December 15, the effective date of my resignation. Rod and I both thank you for your wonderful help and encouragement.

Fred A. Woodress
Director Public Relations

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AMERICAN LEGION NEWS BRIEFS
FOR WEEK ENDING 12-18-81

A speech by National Commander Jack W. Flynt, delivered Nov. 14, 1981, in Rumford, Me., has been entered into The Congressional Record by Senator George Mitchell (D-Me.). The speech came three days after the airing of the PBS Veterans Day program "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran." (Page 1).

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The American Legion has advised the Veterans Administration that a plan to seek re-payment from some workers for VA health care treatment they received during the past four years is unfair. National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director Robert Lyngh told the administrator of Veterans Affairs the plan, if applied only to veterans employed by the VA and not to all veterans would be discriminatory. (Page 3).

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The United States Senate has confirmed the appointments of Charles T. Hegel and William C. Plowden to their new positions with the federal government. Hegel is Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration; Plowden is Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment. (Page 5).

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* REMINDER TO EDITORS: THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION *
* NEWS SERVICE FOR 1981. PUBLICATION WILL RESUME WITH THE JAN. 8 ISSUE. *
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FOR USE 12-18-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- A speech by National Commander Jack W. Flynt, delivered Nov. 14, 1981, in Rumford, Me., has been entered into The Congressional Record.

The speech was placed in the Record by United States Senator George Mitchell (D-Me.) at the request of Maine Adjutant Daniel E. Lambert.

Senator Mitchell, speaking on the floor of the Senate to introduce the Commander's remarks and to support his own stand on Vietnam veterans, said "Mr. Flynt's remarks convey the sense of the frustration and anger that many veterans, especially Vietnam veterans, have experienced since viewing the portrayal of Vietnam veterans in the PBS show 'Frank: A Vietnam Veteran.'"

Commander Flynt's remarks followed by three days the airing of the controversial PBS program. In his speech, Commander Flynt said "What I saw in 'Frank: A Vietnam Veteran' caused me not fear...not distrust. No. What it caused was sorrow and not a little anger. Sorrow, that so many fine Americans were about to be painted black by one broad brush stroke...Anger, that the sacrifices and suffering of so many fine men and women were to be treated with so little dignity...so little respect."

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FOR USE 12-18-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- The Department of Minnesota has recorded its 17th consecutive year of all time high membership.

The department recorded 125,792 members for 1981, surpassing its previous year's total -- an all time high -- of 125,762.

Minnesota has registered membership gains over the immediately preceding year for 29 of the past 30 years.

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INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- A few posts, districts and departments have received solicitations from a person purportedly named Jack Murphy, offering for sale Legion Emblem merchandise listed as excess inventory from the 63rd National Convention in Honolulu. National Headquarters has no knowledge of this operation and cannot vouch for it.

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FOR USE 12-18-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- The Department of Florida is the 1982 winner of the Alvin M. Owsley Trophy, which is awarded each year to the department whose advance membership as of the end of the Veterans Day competition shows the greatest percentage of gain as compared with the final four-year average.

Florida's enrollment as of the Nov. 16, 1981, postmark was 53,085, or 84.87 percent of its four-year average of 62,549.

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FOR USE 12-18-81

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- National Headquarters has been informed of the death of James E. Mulder (Wisconsin), who died Dec. 8, 1981. He was 59.

Mr. Mulder was a National Executive Committeeman from July 1964 to July 1966. He also had served as Wisconsin Department Commander and as a member of numerous committees and commissions.

Services were Dec. 11, 1981, at Oostburg, Wis. Survivors include his wife Lois and five children.

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CORRECTION

INDIANAPOLIS (ALNS) -- Because of an editing error, a story on National Volunteer Blood Donor Month in the Dec. 11, 1981, issue of The American Legion News Service carried incorrect figures.

The final paragraph of that story should read:

"According to the American Blood Commission, volunteer donors give about 11 million pints of blood per year nationwide. But according to Hubbard, only about four percent of the U. S. population actually gives blood, while 40 percent of the total population is medically eligible to do so."

-alns-

FOR USE 12-18-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- The American Legion has advised the Veterans Administration it believes VA is making a mistake in dunning its employees for payment of government medical care to which they were not entitled received over the past four years.

In a letter Dec. 11 to VA chief Robert Nimmo, Robert Lyngh, national rehabilitation director for the Legion, said VA verification of a veteran's statement of inability to pay for treatment of nonservice-connected medical care is unfair if applied only to veterans who work for the agency and not to other veterans.

Veterans whose medical needs are not connected to their military service can receive VA health care if they are 65 or older or if they are unable to pay for the care they need. Up to now, the government has accepted without checking further a veteran's signed statement of inability to pay.

In a campaign against "fraud and abuse," Nimmo recently announced that VA would check up on its own employees who are veterans and who received VA medical care after Oct. 1, 1977, claiming inability to pay. If the agency determines that they were able to pay, the VA employees are to be billed for the care they received.

To satisfy a law passed in 1980, the same standards are eventually to be applied to all veterans seeking VA medical treatment and claiming inability to pay, under a policy yet to be spelled out.

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Legion protests VA action

FOR USE 12-18-81

In his letter to the VA chief, the latest of several on the subject, Lyngh said applying the strict new standards only to VA employees and not other veterans would be discriminatory. Instead, he said, all VA employees who are veterans should be advised that henceforth their statements of inability to pay for needed nonservice-connected medical care will be subject to verification.

Lyngh said The American Legion would advise its service officers and accredited representatives to help VA employees challenge back-billings under the new policy through the formal appeals channels, and if that fails, to tell affected veterans to consult a lawyer as to their due process rights and chances for relief in the federal courts.

In an October press release, VA said that initially it would seek repayment from 465 VA personnel treated for nonservice-connected medical problems during fiscal year 1978. A VA spokesman said dollar figures for the amounts at stake were not available because determinations of ability to pay and the bill due for specific treatment would be determined at the local VA hospital level. Furthermore, he said, most of those affected were expected to appeal.

No across-the-board income standard has been set for determining inability to pay or to afford health insurance, the VA spokesman said.

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FOR USE 12-18-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- American Legion National Commander Jack Flynt has congratulated U.S. Rep. John Napier of South Carolina's 6th District on his appointment to a Republican vacancy on the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

In a letter Dec. 15, Flynt told Napier, a member of American Legion Post No. 60 in Bennetsville, S.C., "I assure you of the support of your 2.7 million Legion comrades in your work on the committee for all our country's veterans. Please call upon The American Legion and on me for any assistance we can provide."

Napier, 34, served as an Army Reserve officer in the Vietnam era and was minority counsel to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee from 1973 to 1976. As a member of the corresponding committee in the House of Representatives, he will act on legislation affecting the Veterans Administration hospital system, disability compensation and pension, veterans rehabilitation and education, the National Cemetery system and other matters concerning those who have served in the military.

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FOR USE 12-18-81

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ALNS) -- The U.S. Senate has confirmed Charles T. Hegel as No. 2 official of the Veterans Administration, and William C. Plowden, Jr. as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment.

Hegel's nomination as Deputy Administrator was confirmed by voice vote on Dec. 7, and Plowden's two days later. Also on Dec. 9, U.S. Rep. John Napier of South Carolina was appointed to fill a Republican vacancy on the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

National Commander Jack Flynt sent congratulatory messages to the three men, who are all veterans and Legionnaires.

Hegel, 35, Alexandria, Va., a twice-wounded Army veteran of Vietnam, is a member of Hartman Post 84 in Columbus, Ne., the community where he was raised.

Plowden, 63, of New Zion, S.C., was an Army officer in the China-Burma-India Theater during World War II and is a founding member of Black River Post No. 149 in New Zion. He is a past department commander of the South Carolina American Legion and has served on the Legion's National Americanism Commission since 1961.

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